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UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE

It has been the experience of quite a few countries that a United Nations presence is a very important safeguard for the preservation of its integrity and the protection of its sovereign rights. The United Nations presence makes a distinct and noticeable contribution to the feeling of security of the country concerned. The most notable example is UNEF, which is located on UAR soil and which helps to insulate the UAR from contact with Israel, as such contact might lead to a flare-up.

A United Nations presence has also been found useful in some other situations. For example, Mr. P. P. Spinelli is the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General vis-à-vis the King of Jordan. Here again, it was the feeling of insecurity on the part of Jordan which led to the establishment of this representation.

When there was considerable instability in Laos during the last two years, the United Nations presence during the difficult periods proved to be a stabilizing factor. Mr. Sakari Tuomioja was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General during the most critical periods. Later on, this was converted into a normal Technical Assistance mission.

In the case of Somalia, the Secretary-General has a Personal Representative whose term expires next March. The Prime Minister of Somalia has addressed a special request to the Secretary-General

that the mission may be continued at least until the end of 1963. The main political reason for this request is the feeling of insecurity of Somalia vis-à-vis Ethiopia, although the actual justification put forward by the Prime Minister is in the field of planning.

In the case of Cuba, my understanding is that, although there are a number of United Nations Technical Assistance experts, there is no Resident Representative as such. If the Revolutionary Government of Cuba agrees, we could appoint there a high-powered representative of the Secretary-General, with some supporting staff, including one or two with military experience. He could also be in charge of the technical assistance activities of the United Nations family in Cuba. His presence would act as a check on all kinds of unjustified rumours about the re-arming of Cuba with nuclear weapons, and at the same time give Cuba a feeling of security in regard to the invasion scares that may arise, sometimes with justification, from time to time.

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